

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Employment and Transportation
Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Teleconference
Meeting Date
November 12, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Lucy Odden – Chair
Sean O'Brien
Alexis Henning
Erin Atwood
Doug Mills
Dave Fleurant
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Rich Sanders
Christie Reinhardt
Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order –1:00 p.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Lucy Odden welcomed the committee members to the meeting.

Announcements or Good News

Lucy Odden announced that her mother passed away, and there will be a memorial service on Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Mountain View Lion's Club. The committee members extended their condolences.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of Agenda

Sean O'Brien **MOVED** to approve the agenda as written. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Sean O'Brien **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Reports

There were no reports given.

Old Business

Council Employment Programs Updates

Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative

Rich Sanders reported that they are making good progress in the second year of the five-year project. One piece of this initiative is to expand the

process of customized employment throughout different disability service providers and education systems. They held a three-day basics training in Anchorage and Fairbanks in July in collaboration with the Disability Employment Initiative. There is a training is scheduled November 18th through the 20th, 2013 in Juneau. Future trainings for customized employment will take place on the Kenai Peninsula for providers in Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer.

Erin Atwood commented that there is a struggle for providers participating in the customized employment training relating to their caseloads and the support needed from within their agencies to sustain the customized employment process, and also how to get reimbursed for the hours expended for training and implementation. Rich Sanders suggested that more work be done with the upper level management of the various agencies.

Sean O'Brien commented that the customized employment program has been improved dramatically with a robust training certification component, which has helped agencies put faith in the program. Sean O'Brien stated that other pieces of the program that are being looked at are VR's accepting the provider certification and also the assessment for selecting the right candidates for the program. He noted that one current challenge related to customized employment strategies is the autocratic referral to DVR.

Rich Sanders reported that there is a meeting scheduled with the Anchorage School District's transition coordinator to talk about customized employment training in pilot sites in Anchorage so that the instructors in special education can start implementing customized employment principles into their curriculum. Rich noted that they have been looking to the Mississippi model, which has been very successful.

Rich Sanders reported that Roger Shelley, the CHD training coordinator, has been providing Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS) training, which is training for Social Security beneficiaries to work towards a goal of an employment situation and not count against them as income in their benefits calculations.

Rich Sanders noted that the members of the grant management team and the Policy and Regulations Committee were essentially the same people,

so they decided to combine the meetings and have one 90-minute meeting a month instead of both groups each having a one-hour meeting.

Rich Sanders reported that they held a Project SEARCH meeting in Juneau last week, and although there is not an official site designated, there was some interest from various people.

Rich Sanders reported that the closing date for the youth with disabilities and parents with disabilities survey is November 17th. They are looking for a few more youths and parents to complete the survey in order to have a solid research piece on employment needs and the perceived barriers to employment.

Trust Beneficiary Employment Focus Area

Rich Sanders reported that the Council meets with the Trust on a weekly basis. There is a Trustee meeting scheduled for November 21st where the Council will make a 45-minute presentation. Rich noted that the Council expects to have the full plan and budgets ready to present at the Trustee meeting on January 3rd, 2014.

Employment First

Rich Sanders reported that the Employment First draft bill should be completed this week, and the Council and staff from Representative Millett's office will review it together and address any concerns. They will be looking at addressing misperceptions about Employment First and trying to anticipate any pushback issues that could occur when it comes time for the legislative session.

Update from the Alaska Mobility Coalition

Ric Nelson reported that the Anchorage Assembly held public testimony on the taxi ordinance last week and have a workshop scheduled for Friday. The vote on the Anchorage taxi ordinance is tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday. Ric commented that it would be good if the vote is postponed as it would give the Council more time to educate the Assembly members and really go into the ordinance and make sure that its being done the right way.

New Business

Review of the Adopted Committee Work Plan

Prioritizing Activities for December and January

Rich Sanders stated that the committee priority at present is the Employment First legislation. They are also addressing policy issues through the AIEI grant, in particular a new policy issue regarding the Medicaid Buy-In.

Rich Sanders reminded the committee members that he and Kristin, as Council staff, are available to assist members with the work plan activities that they are either a lead or an assist on.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Trust Mini Advocacy Summits:

Anchorage – December 10th-11th, 2013

Juneau - TBA

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Employment and Transportation Committee is scheduled for December 10th, 2013 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Alexis Henning **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.